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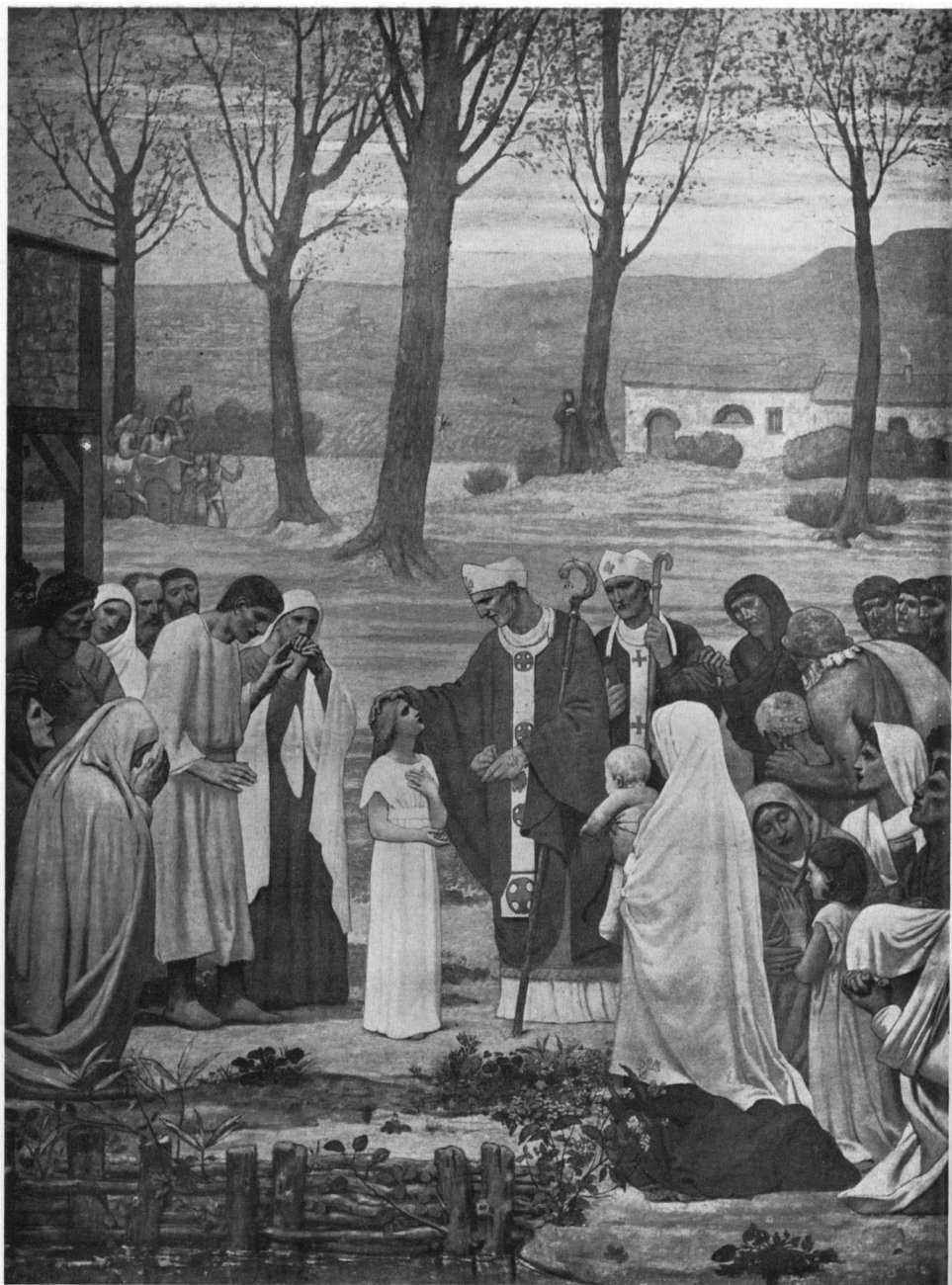
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One of the most beautiful mural paintings in the world is that of "The Little Saint Genevieve" by Puvis de Chavannes in the Pantheon at Paris. Like all of this great artist's works it is rendered in flat tints of soft low-toned colors, and has the effect of being seen through a thin veil of mist, or, as it has been said, as if the chalk on the wall had melted into the blues and reds. The figures have the simplicity, the repose and dignity of those portrayed by the painters before Raphael. The picture is as tranquil as the architecture it adorns. The fact that it is a work of art is emphasized by the manner of its interpretation; though the composition is realistic the treatment is essentially decorative and individual. An appeal is made to the imagination but the requirements of decorative design are fully met. Puvis de Chavannes, who was born 1824 and died in 1898, was not merely a great painter but a great decorator. He created a style of his own and employed legend and allegory with fresh significance and charm. His paintings are found not only in the Pantheon and Sorbonne in Paris, but in the Museums in Amien, Picardy, Rouen and Lyons, in the Public Library, Boston, in the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and private collections. They all testify to lofty aspiration as well as poetic vision and skilful accomplishment.



THE LITTLE SAINT GENEVIEVE

PUVIS DE CHAVANNES

A PAINTING IN THE PANTHEON